



RECORDS OF TWO NON-MARINE SNAILS NEW FOR CROATIA (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA)

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Literature data regarding the presence/absence of the land snail *Discus rotundatus* (O. F. Müller, 1774) in Croatia are discussed, occasioned by its finding on the island of Rab. A second species found on Rab, the freshwater snail *Helisoma duryi* (Wetherby, 1879), is recorded in this paper for the first time in Croatia.

Key words: land snails, freshwater snails, Croatia

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S obzirom na nalaz kopnenog puža *Discus rotundatus* (O. F. Müller, 1774) na otoku Rabu raspravljeno su literaturni podaci o njegovu postojanju/nepostojanju u Hrvatskoj. Također na otoku Rabu nađen je po prvi puta u Hrvatskoj slatkovodni puž *Helisoma duryi* (Wetherby, 1879).

Ključne riječi: kopneni puževi, slatkovodni puževi, Hrvatska

In the spring of 2015, specimens of non-marine snails from the island of Rab (Croatia) were sent to the first author by Mr Žarko Krstinić. The specimens turned out to belong to two species that, according to recent papers, have been considered either as non-existent in Croatia (BANK, 2007, 2010, 2013), or – for one species – as being questionable (ŠTAMOL, 2010). These are the land snail *Discus rotundatus* (O. F. Müller, 1774) and the freshwater snail *Helisoma duryi* (Wetherby, 1879).

Discus rotundatus (O. F. Müller, 1774)

CUSMICH (1858) was the first to record *Discus rotundatus* for the area of Croatia, i.e. on the island of Lokrum (Dalmatia). However, stated that the shells were found in marine deposits. It is therefore unknown whether the specimens originated in Croatia. Marine deposits are a consequence of the southern winds and/or sea currents along the East Adriatic coast, which flow from south to north (MAGAŠ, 2013). BRUSINA (1866) mentioned *Discus rotundatus* in the catalogue list of the Kutschig Collection at the same locality. In those days, i.e. the time when the Kutschig Collection was formed and when the paper mentioned was written, it was seldom noted whether the material originated from such depositions. Shores of the southern Dalmatian island of Lokrum are exposed to southern winds (*jugo* or *scirocco*), and during long-lasting and strong periods of such winds, the sea deposits large amounts of floating material there. Among this material are snails

from Montenegro, Albania and Greece. One example is the land snail *Triloba sandrii* (Küster, 1844), which was described from shells found in the sea deposits of the island of Lokrum and from the wider area of the nearby city of Dubrovnik (Cusmich, 1858; Brusina, 1872, 1886; Böttger, 1878, 1879). During that time there were various theories about the actual distribution of this species (Bielz, 1866; Brusina, 1884; Letourneux, 1885; Westerlund, 1901; Brusina, 1907), but it took over 70 years to find the first living specimens. The original place of these shells turned out to be Albania (Wagner, 1919, 1919a). It is very possible that the specimens of *Discus rotundatus* from the island of Lokrum in the Kutschig Collection (Brusina, 1866), as in the case of specimens of the same species from Lokrum island in the Kuzmić Collection (Cusmich, 1858) and of specimens of the mentioned *Triloba sandrii* from the same island (Cusmich, 1858; Brusina, 1872, 1886; Böttger, 1878, 1879) also originate from marine deposits. Unfortunately, no systematic research of the land snail fauna of Lokrum has been carried out that would definitely confirm or deny the existence of a living population of *D. rotundatus*. So far we do not consider the record from the cited paper (Brusina, 1866) to be evidence of the existence of *D. rotundatus* on Lokrum island. The real origin of specimens deposited on Lokrum is intriguing, as it was with *Triloba sandrii*. *Discus rotundatus* is not recorded in the countries south of Croatia that could be the origin of the deposited shells, namely Montenegro, Albania, or Greece (Jaekel et al., 1958; Bank, 2007, 2010, 2013; Dhora, 2014). However, it is quite likely that the species has yet to be found there. The first and so far the only definite, narrow Croatian finding sites are given by H. Wagner (1932): Opatija and Volosko in Istria (Fig. 1).

In the malacological literature there are finding localities for *Discus rotundatus* for wider areas, which can only be the consequence of the generalisation of a previously published narrow locality. Still, in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century litera-



Fig. 1. Map of Croatia with positions of the island of Rab (black arrow) and of Volosko-Opatija (grey arrow).

ture it could have happened that the first locality got denoted by a wider area, as often in KÜSTER (1844-1862). Wider areas that denote finding sites are:

- i) former regions that are now completely within the borders of present-day Croatia, such as Slavonia, Croatia (the former Croatia, which was, along with Slavonia and Dalmatia, one of the main constituents of present-day Croatia), the Croatian Littoral – in Croatian: Hrvatsko primorje (Croatian Littoral does not encompass the entire Croatian Adriatic coast, as often incorrectly thought. According to today's understanding, it is the coastal area south of the city of Rijeka up to the river Zrmanja in the south; from the river Zrmanja and the island of Pag in the north up to the most southern part of the Croatian coast lies the area in contemporary terms regarded as Dalmatia (BOROVAC, 2002)). Unfortunately, literature data from this group, related to *Discus rotundatus*, which we should consider definitely Croatian, in these cases are questionable and cannot be taken as a proof of this species existing in Croatia. For example BIELZ (1865) notes *Discus rotundatus* for "Kroatien und Slavonien?". From this citation we cannot conclude whether the question mark applies only to Slavonia, or to Slavonia and then Croatia. In any case, we cannot take such data as a valid proof for the species' existence in Croatia. While writing about the malacofauna of Slavonia MÖLLENDORF[F] (1871a) cites BIELZ (1865) and leaves *D. rotundatus* questionable for Slavonia. JAECKEL *et al.* (1958) list Croatia as being within its distribution area. It is not clear what the authors' reason for such statement was – it could easily have been the paper by BIELZ (1865), and we consider their statement questionable.
- ii) former regions only parts of which are today Croatian territories, such as i.e. Istria, Dalmatia, Illyria. If from the paper it is not undoubtedly clear that the mention of the region is a consequence of the generalisation of a Croatian locality, then such data cannot be taken as a sure proof of the existence of the species within the Croatian borders. Regarding *D. rotundatus* this is the case with localities labelled as Illyria (KREGLINGER, 1870), Dalmatia (KREGLINGER, 1870; BRUSINA, 1874), Dalmatia? (JAECKEL *et al.*, 1958), Istria (BOATO *et al.*, 1989).
- iii) land units composed of former regions, some of which are completely within Croatian borders, and some only partially. Probably the most well-known and most often wrongly interpreted example is "Istrien, kroatische Littorale" in JAECKEL *et al.* (1958), where the Croatian Littoral, as explained before, is entirely in Croatia, while Istria is so only partly. Although in the cited paper (JAECKEL *et al.*, 1958) "Istrien und kroat. Lit." is written once, it is given as "Istrien, kr. Lit.", and from the list of taxa, and from their distributions, the meaning of both citations is without a doubt "Istria and/or Croatian Littoral". Therefore the mentioned land unit cannot be taken as a base for proving existence of species in Croatia. ALTABA (1996) gives a distribution map of *Discus rotundatus* in Europe and in the Mediterranean, where among other places the entire Croatian coast is marked. From the paper it is not clear on which data this distribution map is based. In recent fauna lists of Europe or its parts, Croatia is either not listed for *Discus rotundatus* (BANK, 2007, 2010, 2013), or its presence in Croatia is regarded as doubtful (ŠTAMOL, 2010). However, both viewpoints proved to be wrong, since exact Croatian findings for *Discus rotundatus* are given by H. WAGNER (1932). The finding of live specimens on the island of Rab (Kampor, edge of the Dundo forest and of Kamporsko polje field) (Fig. 1) from April, 2015, collected by Mr Žarko Krstinić, is an

additional confirmation of the presence of *Discus rotundatus* in Croatia. Forty-seven specimens from this locality are deposited in the General Collection of recent molluscs of the Croatian Natural History Museum in Zagreb (Croatia).

Discus rotundatus is considered a European-Mediterranean species (GIUSTI *et al.*, 1995; DALFREDDO *et al.*, 2000), emphasizing its absence from the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor, Middle East and Northeast Africa (GIUSTI *et al.*, 1995). Within Europe its western-central European character is often emphasized (JAECKEL *et al.*, 1958; KERNEY *et al.*, 1983; TURNER *et al.*, 1998). Recently it has been recorded for the first time on the Maltese archipelago (GIUSTI *et al.*, 1995), Balearic islands (ALTABA, 1996), in Turkey (ÖRSTAN, 2003; SCHÜTT, 2005) and in Bulgaria (GEORGIEV, 2014). *Discus rotundatus* is susceptible to passive transport by man (GIUSTI *et al.*, 1995). Uniparental reproduction in this species is possible (KUŽNIK-KOWALSKA, 1999), or even regular (WELTER-SCHULTES, 2012). Thus, in favourable habitats it is easy to form and spread a population from one or only a few introduced specimens. Because of this, *Discus rotundatus* is not considered native in the Maltese archipelago (GIUSTI *et al.*, 1995), Balearic islands (ALTABA, 1996) or in Turkey (ÖRSTAN, 2003; SCHÜTT, 2005). For Bulgaria its origin is not given (GEORGIEV, 2014) but for this country we can conclude the same, because from the paper it could be seen that specimens were found in a habitat influenced by man (a hill in a city, and, among other things, bricks are mentioned). *Discus rotundatus* is also introduced in Finland (KERNEY *et al.*, 1983), and to several localities in North America, ranging from Mexico to Canada (GEORGIEV, 2014).

The origin of *Discus rotundatus* in Istria and on the island of Rab is unknown. This snail was recorded in Italy (MINELLI *et al.*, 2004; BANK, 2007, 2010, 2013) and in Slovenia (BOLE, 1969; BANK, 2007, 2010, 2013), and it is very possible that its distribution is spreading from Slovenia, to the south across Istria and over the island of Rab. Still, it has not been found in areas neighbouring on or close to the island of Rab, such as on the islands of Krk (BOLE, 1958), Cres (ŠTAMOL & VELKOVRIH, 1995), Pag (FISCHER *et al.*, 2000; REISCHÜTZ & REISCHÜTZ, 2005), although systematic research has been conducted into the terrestrial malacofauna of these areas.

Because of the similarity in snail names (only the authors are different), we should mention that in the literature "*Helix rotundata* Drap." is mentioned for Croatia (BRUSINA, 1867, 1870; MÖLLENDORF[F], 1871). It is interesting that BRUSINA (1867, 1870) cites Bielz, but unfortunately it is not clear which of Bielz's works is referred to. Examination of the potential source (BIELZ, 1865, 1866) established that it was not mentioned there. BRUSINA (1870) places it into group of unknown, doubtful or suspect species that have to be excluded from the Croatian fauna. The mention of *Helix rotundata* Drap. for Croatia in MÖLLENDORF[F] (1871) is the consequence of citing BRUSINA (1867, 1870). The authors of this paper failed to synonymise *Helix rotundata* Drap. with a valid species, so also not with *Discus rotundatus* (O. F. Müller, 1774); we suppose someone incorrectly wrote the species author's name, and it was uncritically copied by others.

Helisoma duryi (Wetherby, 1879)

The nomenclature of this species follows WELTER-SCHULTES (2012). It should be stressed that the name *Helisoma* is mostly used in North American publications, whereas in most European literature the name *Planorbella* is used, e.g. GLÖER (2002).

Helisoma is a genus of freshwater air-breathing snails, in the family Planorbidae, which all have sinistral, or left-coiling shells. Species of the genus *Helisoma* are originally

North American representatives. The species *H. duryi* (Wetherby, 1879) is sold in Europe for use in aquaria.

Specimens of *Helisoma duryi* were found for the first time living in Croatia. They were found by Mr Žarko Krstinić in the spring of 2015 in the Fruška lokva pond in the area called Fruga, between the places Supetarska Draga and Lopar on the island Rab. Seven specimens (shell height 5.6-7 mm; shell width 11-16 mm) are deposited in the General Collection of Recent Molluscs of the Croatian Natural History Museum in Zagreb (Croatia).

This species has been recorded in Europe several times. FALKNER *et al.* (2001, 2002) mentioned Malta and Corsica as finding places for *Helisoma duryi*. GLÖER (2002) mentioned for Europe 2 species belonging to the genus *Helisoma*: *H. anceps* (Menke, 1830) only from Italy (CLARKE, 1981) and *H. duryi*. *H. duryi* has further been reported from the Rhineland (STUEMUND & ROSENBERG, 1994), Warmbad Villach (REISCHÜTZ, 1980), Lake Albano in Italy (ALEXANDROWICZ, 2003; MIENIS, 2004). BECKMANN (2007) mentioned Mallorca, REITANO *et al.* (2007) mentioned Sicily, DE OLIVEIRA *et al.* (2010) mentioned Coimbra in Portugal. MIENIS (2010, 2011) mentioned Purmerend in the Netherlands. *Helisoma duryi* has been also found at the inlet of a warm stream running from the Ust-Ilimsk Pulp and Paper Plant into the Angara River in East Siberia (SITNIKOVA *et al.*, 2010). In Europe the species is restricted to artificially warmed waters, and in temperate zones there are probably no permanent populations (WELTER-SCHULTES, 2012).

DOLENC & JAMNIK (2009) in their study of invasive species aquarium / terrarium animals and plants in the Slovenian pet shops, recorded *Helisoma* in 4 aquarium shops in Slovenia. The authors stated that in Slovenia *Helisoma* probably does not occur in nature. In Croatia there has been no similar research. Still, it is likely that the introduction of *Helisoma duryi* into new habitats, including that of Rab, has come through the aquarium trade.

The number of reports of non-indigenous gastropods invading new geographical regions has greatly increased during the recent years.

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